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SIPDIS

FOR WHA/PD, IIP/T/ES, IIP/G/WHA, EB, AND WHA/CEN  
EMBASSIES FOR PAOS, IOS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON HURRICANE RITA AND OIL PRICES,  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

1. Editorial in Tegucigalpa-based liberal daily "La Tribuna" on 9/28 titled "Boogeyman." "Hurricane Rita wasn't as violent or as harmful as Katrina, but has had some negative impact in the communities in the southern U.S., and has also affected some oil refineries. However, that hasn't provoked a dramatic rise in international oil prices as it was expected."

"Here in Honduras, uncertainty still prevails on the consequences it will have on domestic oil prices. But, in the meantime, the transnational oil importers took into account the suggestions made by the ad-hoc Oil Commission to provide subsidized gas for public buses and taxis in the main cities, but not to all other consumers. As we can see, since the government lost control of the gasoline issue, it now can't find its way out of this labyrinth."

Williard